in Annexure (*See* Appendix CXLIII, Annexure No. 22]

National Drugs and Pharmaceutical Authority

128. SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state by when the proposed National Drugs and Pharmaceutical Authority is likely to be established and in what way this authority would step up production of drugs both for use in the domestic market and for exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): The time frame for setting up of the National Drugs and Pharmaceutical Authority is one year. The proposed Authority would co-ordinate matters relating to development of the drugs and pharmaceutical industry in the country.

Gas based Power Station in Gujarat

129. SHRI VITHAL BHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Gujarat and the Gujarat Electricity Board have sent a proposal to set up a gas based power station in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Central Government to the above proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) The Gujarat Electricity Board have submitted four proposals for setting up gas-based power stations which could be considered further after their techno-economic viability has been established and all necessary inputs, including availability of gas, have been tied up.

Supply of Coal to Power Stations

130. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is short supply of coal to the coal based power plants in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps are being taken to improve the situation;

(c) what is the total number of coal based power plants in the country, Statewise, and what is the minimum requirement of coal of each of the power plants; and

(d) whether any agreement has been made with some foreign countries for the import of coal for these power plants and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) The Coal supplies to the power stations in the country have been generally satisfactory. A few power stations such as Parlia and Raichur have, however, been facing difficulties in getting the required quantity of coal from Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd., and action has been taken to move coal from other sources to build stocks at these power stations also.

(c) There are 57 major coal-based power stations in operation. The coal requirement of these power stations is given in the Statement. (*See* below)

(d) There is no agreement for the import of coal for these power plants.